WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An adhesive composition which comprises (A) a copolymer of (meth)acrylic esters, (B) a crosslinking agent and (C) a phenol derivative.

2. An adhesive composition according to Claim 1, which comprises 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of the phenol derivative of component (C) per 100 parts by weight of component (A).

3. An adhesive composition according to Claim 1, wherein the phenol derivative is at least one compound selected from single ring phenol compounds, two-ring phenol compounds, three-ring phenol compounds and four-ring phenol compounds.

4. An adhesive composition according to Claim 3, wherein the single ring phenol compounds comprise 2,6-di-tert-butyl-p-cresol, butylhydroxyanisole and stearyl β-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate; the two-ring phenols comprise 4,4'-butylidenebis(3-methyl-6-tert-butylphenol) and 3,6-dioxaoctamethylenebis[3-(3-tert-butyl-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl) propionate]; the three-ring phenols comprise 1,1,3-tris(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-tert-butylphenylbutane; and the four-ring phenols comprise tetrakis[methylene-3-(3',5'-di-tert-butyl-4'-hydroxyphenyl) propionate].

5. An adhesive composition according to Claim 1, which is applied to films of acetyl cellulose.

6. An adhesive optical component comprising an optical component and a layer which comprises an adhesive composition described in Claim 1 and is disposed at least on one face of the optical component.

7. An adhesive optical component according to Claim 6, wherein the optical component is a polarizing plate or a plate for phase differentiation.

8. An adhesive composition which comprises (D) a copolymer of (meth)acrylic esters having a weight-average molecular weight of 500,000 to 2,500,000, (E) a crosslinking agent and (F) a radical scavenger.

9. An adhesive composition which comprises (D') a mixture of a copolymer of (meth)acrylic esters having a weight-average molecular weight of 500,000 to 2,500,000 and an oligomer of (meth)acrylic esters having a weight-average molecular weight of 1,000 to 10,000 in amounts such that a ratio of the amounts by weight of the copolymer to the oligomer is in a range of 100:5 to 100:100, (E) a crosslinking agent and (F) a radical scavenger.

10. An adhesive composition according to Claim 8, which further comprises (G) a secondary antioxidant.

11. An adhesive composition according to Claim 9, which further comprises (G) a secondary antioxidant.

12. An adhesive composition according to Claim 10, which comprises 0.1

to 10 parts by weight of the secondary antioxidant of component (G) per 1 part by weight of component (F).

13. An adhesive composition according to Claim 11, which comprises 0.1 to 10 parts by weight of the secondary antioxidant of component (G) per 1 part by weight of component (F).

14. An adhesive composition according to Claim 8, wherein the radical scavenger is at least one agent selected from antioxidants, amine photostabilizers and polymerization inhibitors.

15. An adhesive composition according to Claim 9, wherein the radical scavenger is at least one agent selected from antioxidants, amine photostabilizers and polymerization inhibitors.

16. An adhesive composition according to Claim 8, which is used for adhesive optical components.

17. An adhesive composition according to Claim 9, which is used for adhesive optical components.

18. An adhesive optical component comprising an optical component and a layer which comprises an adhesive composition described in Claim 8 and is disposed at least on one face of the optical component.

19. An adhesive optical component comprising an optical component and

a layer which comprises an adhesive composition described in Claim 9 and is disposed at least on one face of the optical component.

20. An adhesive optical component according to Claim 18, wherein the optical component is a polarizing plate or a plate for phase differentiation.

21. An adhesive optical component according to Claim 19, wherein the optical component is a polarizing plate or a plate for phase differentiation.